Volunteer Newsletter

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



Around the Water Cooler

our ranks! Welcome aboard!

including summer interns, teens in the

vocational rehabilitation program, Idaho

We have many new people helping this summer,

Conservation Corps members, as well as many

individual volunteers who have recently joined

Have you helped at the Refuge since October?

Now is the time to submit your volunteer hours

for our annual reporting! Please email hours to deerflat@fws.gov or drop timesheets off at the

July 2016

Great egret in smartweed

Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities Volunteers especially needed for:

Visitor Counting Surveyor (*Semi-flexible*)—Count vehicles at Refuge access points to estimate visitation. **Latino Outreach Programs** (*TBD, upcoming*)—Help lead kids on fun refuge expeditions.

Monarch Monitors (*Flexible, throughout summer*)—Search for monarch butterflies on the Refuge.

What's New?

Monarch butterflies and caterpillars are being spotted regularly at Deer Flat! Monarch populations across the country have declined greatly over the past decades. See next page for more info about monitoring on the Refuge. And if you see a monarch butterfly off the refuge, contact deerflat@fws.gov with any sightings. Pictures and GPS coordinates preferred.

Cheers!

Speaking of butterflies, thanks to our collegiate partners in citizen science for leading ecological

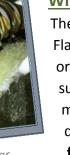
research efforts on the Refuge!
Dusty Perkins and Hollie
Leavitt from College of
Western Idaho are
spearheading the monarch
monitoring project. Dale
Hamilton from Northwest
Nazarene University is using
Refuge habitats to test whether
remote sensing technology can
be used to reconstruct
vegetation communities after fire.



The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization that

supports Refuge activities. Friends memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible. Email

friendsofdfwr@gmail.com for info.



Monarch caterpillar Photo courtesy Cathy Sandoval









Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise stated, events take place at the Visitor Center.

Reading at the Refuge—<u>July</u> <u>18, 10a and 2p.</u> Preschoolers are invited to a wildlife-focused story time.



Monarch Butterfly Photo Courtesy Lisa Brown

Biodiversity Basics Day

Camp *July 25-29, 9a-12:30p* Explore the incredible variety of life in the world! Kids going into 4th & 5th grade hike through habitats, create field guides, and find out what it's like to be biologists! *Free! Register by July 11.*

Desert Detectives Day Camp

August 8-12, 9a-12:30p Come discover how plants, animals, and people survive in the desert of southwest Idaho. Kids going into 2nd & 3rd grade dissect owl pellets, explore a wetland, create field guides, and more! Free! Camp full but waiting list spots available.

Volunteer Ice Cream Social

<u>August 20, 12-2p.</u> Join us at the Visitor Center for cool treats and conversation! <u>Please RSVP by Aug 16th.</u>

Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!

Think you might not have the skills needed to help? Don't worry! Training is provided.

Visitor Counting Surveyor—2 hours in the morning (between 8a and noon), 6 times/month (4 weekdays and 2 weekends). Drive around the Refuge in a Refuge vehicle to count the total number of vehicles at each Refuge access point and fill brochure boxes. Data are used to estimate total Refuge visitation.

Latino Outreach Programs— <u>TBA, but</u> <u>please let us know your interest in helping!</u>
Help our Latino Outreach Fellow, Wylmarie, lead kids on fun refuge expeditions. Activities may include fishing, art, and wildlife-related games.

Monarch Butterfly Monitors—<u>Flexible</u> <u>schedule, through mid-October.</u> Help researchers understand monarch populations. Learn how to monitor a milkweed patch and submit monarch sightings on the Refuge or near where you live.

Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Nampa Farmers Market Outreach—

<u>Saturdays through October, 8:30a-1:30p.</u> Spread the word about the Refuge and get people excited about wildlife. Volunteer to help staff the booth or take the lead.

Vehicle Maintenance—<u>Flexible, monthly.</u>
Check refuge vehicles to make sure they are well-maintained. Special auto skills not required.

National Public Lands Day—Sep 24, 9a-noon. Deadline to register: Crew leaders, Aug 26th, Crew members, Sep 19th. Celebrate our public lands by volunteering to improve habitat for wildlife! Projects to include removing noxious weeds and picking up litter. Crew leaders also needed!.

Collecting Owl Pellets—*At your convenience.*

Owl pellets are dissected in our education programs. We always need more! If you have access to owl pellets, please bring them to the Visitor Center. If you know where they can be found, let us know where to collect them.